



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION JULY 29

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Southern California Edison Co. on July 29 to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The plant is located near San Clemente, California.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Country Plaza Inn, 35 Via Pico Plaza, San Clemente. The public is invited to observe the meeting and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer questions from the public.

"The meeting will give area residents a chance to hear first-hand how NRC inspectors think the plant has been run from a safety standpoint. It is the plant's responsibility to operate in a safe manner, and this is our report card on how they've done in the past year," said NRC Region IV Administrator Bruce S. Mallett.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2003. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter from the NRC to Southern California Edison discusses the performance of the plant during this period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/sano_2003q4.pdf.

The NRC concluded that the plant operated safely last year and will continue to receive the normal baseline inspections during 2004.

With regard to security issues, the letter points out that NRC has issued several orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities at all nuclear power plants and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The agency has also conducted

inspections to review the implementation of these requirements and has monitored the action of plant operators in response to changing plant conditions. The NRC will continue security inspections during 2004.

Current performance indicators for San Onofre Unit 2 are available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SANO2/sano2_chart.html . Current performance indicators for San Onofre Unit 3 are available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/SANO3/sano3_chart.html .

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